

## **City Manager's Biweekly Report - Oct. 21- Nov. 1, 2019**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**



**City Manager Highlights City's Accomplishments over Last Two Years:** In a Community Letter issued Oct. 25, City Manager Deanna J. Santana shared her gratitude for working with the community, employees, and City Council toward advancing the goals and priorities of the City of Santa Clara. This October marks Santana's second year as Santa Clara's city manager. Read about the many accomplishments and key priorities that contribute to the city's quality of life, <http://santaclaraca.gov/Home/Components/News/News/39577/50>.

#### **Settlement Reached in Fair Labor Standards Act Lawsuit Based on Federal Court Decision:**

The City of Santa Clara recently reached a settlement agreement in a Fair Labor Standards Act lawsuit brought by five firefighters who alleged the City failed to pay them and other employees the proper overtime rates for more than four years. While other City administrations and former Human Resource directors let the matter sit for several years going back to 2014, the current City administration addressed the situation within a year and half.

The lawsuit is based on a U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision in *Flores v. City of San Gabriel* that changed how overtime pay is calculated. Due to the ruling, employers including the City of Santa Clara must now account for cash payments made in lieu of health benefits to employees when calculating overtime pay. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the case in May 2017, allowing the decision to stand. This federal court decision also caused many California cities to go back and apply the decision of the court.

The City's settlement is for \$2.7 million, which includes about \$150,000 in attorneys' fees. As authorized by the City Council, the settlement agreement would apply to all current and former employees entitled to FLSA overtime from May 2014 through August 2018. The court still must approve the City's settlement agreement. A hearing is scheduled for Dec. 12, 2019, and the City expects the Court to rule then or soon after that date. For more information, contact the City Manager's Office at 408-615-2210 or email [manager@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:manager@santaclaraca.gov)

**City Weighs Options for Curbside Refuse Collection:** The State has passed legislation that requires cities to implement organics recycling programs to minimize greenhouse gas emissions from landfills. One of the two residential organics collection program options will be implemented citywide on July 1, 2021, to comply with the State regulations on methane control:

- Option 1 - Expand the existing pilot split-cart food recycling program (with one compartment for organics and the other for garbage) to all single-family and townhouse customers.
- Option 2 - Maintain the existing garbage container for single-family and townhouse customers and deliver the contents to a mixed waste processing facility to recover food scraps and food-soiled paper.

On Dec. 10, 2019, the City Council will consider an agreement with Mission Trail Waste Systems and will provide direction to the staff on which organics collection program to roll out citywide. The Department of Public Works wants to include input received from the community in the staff report to the City Council to better inform the decision. Residents are encouraged take a moment to fill out this [short survey](#) by Nov. 22. For more information, contact the Department of Public Works at 408-615-3080 or [environment@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:environment@santaclaraca.gov).

**Last Chances to Shape Future of Central Park:** The City of Santa Clara is calling for another blast of public input into the future of Central Park as the final draft of a 20-year master plan moves toward completion. The final draft took shape after the City spent two years gathering and incorporating public input on possible improvements for the 52-acre complex. One convenient way to share last-minute comments on the draft is to take an online survey by Nov. 12. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Commission will hear a presentation and take public comments starting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19. The adopted plan will provide a coherent vision to guide Central Park's future improvements through guiding principles, community-supported priorities and design criteria. Here's a link to the final draft and the survey: [https://www.opentownhall.com/portals/98/Issue\\_7955](https://www.opentownhall.com/portals/98/Issue_7955).



**New Food and Beverage Operator Coming to Santa Clara Convention Center:** At the Oct. 29 meeting, the City Council authorized the City Manager to execute an agreement with Levy Premium Foodservice Limited Partnership for food and beverage operations at the Santa Clara Convention Center. The City conducted a Request for Proposal procurement process to solicit proposals from qualified firms to operate a first-class, high-quality food and beverage service at the Convention Center. Levy is scheduled to take over operations on Jan. 1, 2020. For more information, contact the City Manager's Office at 408-241-6771 or [manager@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:manager@santaclaraca.gov).



**Beta Testing of Redesigned City Website Underway:** Public beta testing of the redesigned SantaClaraCA.gov website, [Beta.SantaClaraCA.gov](https://beta.santaclaraca.gov), began on Oct. 23. The website redesign project entails replacing a City website that is about five years old while also creating three new subsites. The redesigned website features responsive design, enhanced search functionality and an improved user experience. The new subsites are for the Santa Clara City Library, Silicon Valley Power and SVP Fiber.

For the next several weeks, staff is conducting public beta testing through an online survey, on-location testing and focus groups. During the beta testing period, City staff will continue to work with the website vendor in updating content and making overall improvements. The public is encouraged to explore the beta website and provide feedback about its functionality through the online survey, [https://www.opentownhall.com/portals/98/Issue\\_7964](https://www.opentownhall.com/portals/98/Issue_7964), which runs through 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019. For more information, contact the City Manager's Communications Division at [communications@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:communications@santaclaraca.gov).

**Vibrant Spaces Emerging after Two Years of Planning:** Two years of City-driven efforts to inject more life and vibrancy into public and private spaces are gradually beginning to pay dividends, even without spending a whole lot of money. "Placemaking" involves making inviting physical and programmatic changes in spaces to better support active use by the community.

The first signs of the City's efforts were already emerging even before the City Council greenlighted implementation of a "placemaking" plan for the Mission Library and City Plaza Park on Oct. 22, 2019. The plan was developed by consultant Project for Public Spaces (PPS) and the Community Development Department after a large amount of public input.

Many of the recommendations made by PPS require minimal cost and effort to implement. Accordingly, Parks & Recreation and Library staff have already started to implement some of the easier recommendations with existing resources. Specifically, new benches have popped up in the park, and café tables and chairs have been installed on the library patios. New light cubes can be used as chairs or tables during evening events. A new 105-piece playground sparks the imagination. People can check out from the library a variety of outdoor games, including a giant Jenga set, cornhole, badminton, croquet, ping pong, T-ball, pickleball, horseshoes, footballs, soccer balls and flying discs. Look for more in the coming months, including projects with several community partners.

**Utility Box Artwork:** Another artist is working on beautifying a utility box over the next few weeks. Claudia Blanco was selected by the Cultural Commission through a call for artists. The work is called “8-bit Frieda” and will be painted on a box at Lafayette and Lexington streets. It’s the City’s second utility box to get a face lift under a new program. For information regarding the Cultural Commission, call Susan Diatte at 408-615-3155.

**International Swim Center Diving Pool Motor Replacement:** The motor and pump of the diving pool at the City’s George F. Haines International Swim Center went kaput in early October after more than 44 years and will have to be replaced. Similar equipment is no longer available, so the City is



replumbing the facility to accommodate the new motor and pump. Once manufactured, the new circulation system is expected to be installed within eight weeks. For more information, contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 408-615-2260 or email [PRCustomerServe@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:PRCustomerServe@santaclaraca.gov).

**La Leche League - - Nursing Mothers Meetings:** Women who are, or soon will be, new moms may understandably be a bit apprehensive about learning the ins and outs of breastfeeding. Not to worry. La Leche League holds monthly meetings for such women every fourth Monday from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Margie Edinger Room of the Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Road. The Library hosts these meetups in support of nursing mothers to spread the word that the facility has a Mamava nursing pod. The pod is a private place in the Library’s children’s department where nursing mothers can go to feed their children or pump. The Library encourages mothers to nurse their children anywhere, but some mothers may want a little privacy.





### **Silicon Valley Power Earns Smart Energy Provider Designation:**

Silicon Valley Power, the city-owned electric utility, was honored in late October to receive a Smart Energy Provider designation from the American Public Power Association. This designation is given to public power utilities that demonstrate expertise in and a commitment to energy efficiency, distributed generation and environmental initiatives. For more information, visit [siliconvalleypower.com/SVPNews](http://siliconvalleypower.com/SVPNews).

**One for the Books:** The Santa Clara City Library drove away with statewide honors in late October when the California Library Association bestowed its PR Excellence Award for the Library's promotion of its revitalized bookmobile program. The association especially appreciated the bookmobile's eye-catching design and the popular Bookmobile Karaoke. The bookmobile was recognized for:

- innovating service to the community
- expanding beyond the typical bookmobile models
- showcasing the diversity of our services and our community



In the \$10 million-plus budget wildcard category, Santa Clara City Library bested big library systems with 20, 50 or even 70 libraries with full marketing departments. "Brilliant!" the judges gushed. "Love all the ways and ideas to make this revitalized bookmobile something new, clever, fresh and fun."

### **Amateur Emergency Radio Operators, Powerful Voices in a Blackout:**

Even as hundreds of thousands of Californians were dealing with blackouts when PG&E shut off electricity in some places recently (Santa Clara was not affected) to reduce fire risk during a severe windstorm, about 50 amateur radio operators gathered at the Santa Clara Senior Center to expand on earlier discussions of radio communication in an emergency. Hosted by the City Office of Emergency Services, the recent



workshop came during a quarterly meeting of the Silicon Valley Emergency Communication System group. This month, operators learned how to stay on the air in case of a power outage and the pros and cons of various battery options. Anyone interested in serving the City as an emergency communicator in Amateur Radio Emergency Service/Radio Amateur Civilian Emergency Service is encouraged to contact the City's Office of Emergency Services for more information at 408-615-4942.



**EV Charging Stations at Santa Clara Libraries:** Customers who own electric vehicles can now charge them at both the Central Park and Northside Branch libraries in Santa Clara. Each library has two charging stations, with the ability to charge two vehicles per station. At the Central Park Library, one charging station is in the parking lot and the other is in the parking garage. These are a part of the Blink network. At the Northside Branch Library, both charging stations are in the parking lot next to the library and are a part of the ChargePoint network. To find more charging stations in Santa Clara, visit [siliconvalleypower.com/EV](http://siliconvalleypower.com/EV).

**Is Solar a Bright Idea for Your Home?** Silicon Valley Power held a workshop in late October for public utility customers interested in learning more about installing a rooftop solar system on their home. Residents learned what to look for and how to compare bids from multiple contractors, as well as what is required to interconnect with the electric system. If interested in learning more about going solar, email [info@siliconvalleypower.com](mailto:info@siliconvalleypower.com) or call 408-244-SAVE (7283).

**Cover Crop Experiment at the Everett N. "Eddie" Souza Community Garden:**

Seniors and children planted a cover crop mix of oats, fava beans, vetch and clover to suppress weeds, control plant diseases and pests, and promote biodiversity. All these crops improve soil fertility during the winter. In January, there will be a hands-on workshop that will teach visitors how to mix crops into the soil to prepare it for spring planting. Visit the Community Garden, 2380 Monroe St., to track the progress of this experiment. Workshop information is available at [www.santaclaraca.gov/communitygarden](http://www.santaclaraca.gov/communitygarden). To join the garden mailing list or learn more about it, call or email Derek Bryant at 408-615-3743 or [dbryant@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:dbryant@santaclaraca.gov).



**Tip-A-Cop at for Special Olympics:** Police personnel slung pizzas as celebrity-serving staff one night in October in exchange for "tips" at a local restaurant, raising money and awareness for Special Olympics Northern California. Cops and diners alike seemed to enjoy themselves during the four-hour event at the California Pizza Kitchen on Monroe Street. Special Olympics Northern California provides athletic opportunities to children and adults with intellectual disabilities and instills the confidence they need to succeed in life. For more information, contact the Police Department at 408-615-4700.

**Trunk or Treat – Officers Participate in Halloween:** The Police Department took part in several Halloween-related activities. On Oct. 26, the Police Department displayed a vehicle at Bethel Church's Trunk or Treat event. On Oct. 31, the department set up a booth at the Youth Activity Center to greet the city's youngest ghosts and goblins. On Halloween itself, the Police Department ran a booth at Rivermark Parkway and Brackett Way, where candy and stickers were handed out to neighborhood families. Throughout their shifts, patrol officers distributed these treats to people they came across citywide.

The next day, members of the Police Department staffed a booth at the Fall Festival of the North Valley Baptist Church, where they handed out stickers, goodies and crime prevention information. Assistant Police Chief Dan Winter and other department personnel judged the church's annual barbecue contest. For more information, contact the Police Department at 408-615-4700.

**Halloween BBQ and Celebration at the Senior Center:** On Oct. 31, seniors enjoyed tricks and treats at the Santa Clara Senior Center. Some donned costumes and others wore street clothes, but all enjoyed a delicious lunch. Nursing student interns from the University of San Francisco hosted repeat showings of "Hocus Pocus" and "The Haunted Mansion," enhanced with popcorn and treats in the Fireside Lobby. For more information about the Senior Center, call 408-615-3170.

### **UPCOMING COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS**

**Proposed Residential Project at 3035 El Camino Real to be Heard by City Council:** The proposed rezoning, tentative map and associated environmental review for a residential project at 3035 El Camino Real is tentatively scheduled to be heard by the City Council on Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019 at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. The proposed development includes 48 residential units and six live/work units. For more information on the project, visit:



<http://santaclaraca.gov/Home/Components/BusinessDirectory/BusinessDirectory/287/2495>

**Developer Seeks Three-year Extension of Rights on Big Yahoo Project:** The developer with existing rights to build a 3-million square-foot commercial project within the larger Yahoo Santa Clara campus project is asking the City Council for an additional three years to meet its performance deadlines. The developer, Innovation Commons Owner (previously Yahoo), already controls development rights until 2030, but says it may need more time, and requested an extension of the development agreement with the City that was approved in 2010. No other changes are sought. The City Council is expected to take up the question on Tuesday, Dec. 17.

### **LEVI'S STADIUM RELATED UPDATES**

There were no significant police events at the stadium when the San Francisco 49ers took on the Carolina Panthers on Oct. 27. There were no significant police events. For more information, contact the Police Department at 408-615-4700.

About 40 youths with Oakland's Brothers on the Rise had a chance to mingle with law enforcement and several 49ers players recently. The theme was "Building a Better Bay Area" by reducing barriers to opportunity.

#### **Upcoming Stadium events**

Monday, Nov. 11 -- 49ers vs Seahawks  
Sunday, Nov. 17 -- 49ers vs Cardinals

### **UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS**



**Bowers Park Playground Ribbon Cutting:** The City celebrates completion of another playground rehabilitation project with a ribbon cutting at the Bowers Park playground at 1:45 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6. The public is invited to join the Mayor for the festivities at 2852 Cabrillo Ave. The project was partially funded by a grant from PlayCore and California Parks & Recreation Society. Designed and built to be enjoyed by children of all abilities, PlayCore designated the playground as a national demonstration site. The project underscores the City's commitment to providing all the elements of play at the beginner, intermediate and advanced levels to meet the physical, social and developmental needs of children ages 2 to 5 and 6 to 12 in a natural setting.

**Community Meeting Set for Tasman East Residential Project:** Tasman East Urban Housing LLC/Related California, will be hosting a community meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019, at the Northside Branch Library regarding their proposed development project in the Tasman East specific plan area. The proposed development project consists of 509 residential units and 191 assisted living units, about 35,000 square feet of retail, and a half-acre acre public park. For more information on the project visit:

<http://santaclaraca.gov/Home/Components/BusinessDirectory/BusinessDirectory/281/2495?alpha=T>

**Planning Commission to Weigh Affordable Housing Project:** In partnership with the City, Freebird Development Company is proposing to develop 65 units of affordable housing at 2330 Monroe St. The project would develop the site with a mix of studios, one, two- and three-bedroom units, with 25% of units set aside for people with developmental disabilities. The Planning Commission is scheduled to consider a proposed general plan amendment and rezoning to allow the project at 6 p.m. Nov. 13, 2019 at City Hall. For more information on the project visit:

<http://santaclaraca.gov/Home/Components/BusinessDirectory/BusinessDirectory/291/2495>

**Annual Elks Hoop Shoot:** Free throws aren't free when they cost you the game. So why not put in some practice time, then come on down to the annual Elks Hoop Shoot and try your hand in the best-of-25 free throw contest? Hosted by the Santa Clara Elks Lodge at the City's Walter E. Schmidt Youth Activity Center, 2450 Cabrillo Ave. Boys and girls ages 8-13 are invited. The event is from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14. For more information, call the YAC at 408-615-3760.

**Zumba Class Exercises Right to Party in Costume:** The Monday morning Zumba® class with Kiana celebrated Halloween early this year with costumes, goodie bags and special Halloween songs. The Parks & Recreation Department offers many other drop-in group fitness classes at the Community Center – mornings or evenings. For a complete schedule of classes, visit [CRC Group Exercise Schedule](#).



## **CURRENT JOB OPENINGS**

Join the Center of What's Possible. The City is currently hiring for the following positions. To view the job description and for information on how to apply, visit [santaclaraca.gov/jobs](http://santaclaraca.gov/jobs).

- As-Needed Instructor/Lifeguard
- As-Needed Recreation Office Assistant
- Communications and Outreach Manager
- Crossing Guard As-Needed
- Electrician
- Journey Lineworker
- Laborer
- As-Needed Legal Office Specialist III
- Per Diem Police Officer Special Events
- Senior Civil Engineer
- As-Needed Traffic Control - Special Events

### **UPCOMING COUNCIL CALENDAR/AGENDA ITEMS**

Visit the [Tentative Meeting Agenda Calendar](#) for dates of upcoming Council Study Sessions, Joint Council/Commission meetings, as well as Council Public Hearing and General Business agenda items online at [Legislative Public Meetings](#) on the City's website. As you can see, while tentative and subject to change, it provides key policy items that the Council/Board will need to dedicate time to deliberate and that may take considerable time during the upcoming meetings. The following is a snapshot of calendar items for councilmembers over the next two weeks.

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